

OUR PRIDE IN OUR WICKED ANCESTORS

A Long Line of Respectability Receives Absolutely No Notice.

PIRATES and TRAITORS ARE MUCH TO BE DESIRED

If they Have the Glamor of Many Years About Them to Add Interest.

BY KATHRYN HOWARD.

Have you any ancestors?

Of course, I know you belong to that great family that facetiously claims Adam and Eve for their ancestors—caring nothing whether Eve really did such a terrible thing as eating an apple, and being still more indifferent as to Adam's private life. Our pride in this couple as our ancestors is due, I always believe, partly to the fact that no one can claim any better ancestors, and partly to the fact that time makes even the greatest criminals quite desirable as ancestors.

For instance, I know a girl whose forefathers and foremothers for centuries have been nice, well-behaved people, so far as she is able to find out, with the exception of one old fellow who was hanged for high treason in the reign of Charles II, of England. Now, treason is a very nasty word, and, as a rule, we do not admire it, but that girl never allows you to forget that she had such a person in her family. She doesn't know very much about justice or the deed, but she knows perfectly well that to be hanged for high treason in the reign of Charles II, should get her into all sorts of good societies—in fact, she is quite hurt that it does not get her admitted to the Daughters of the Revolution or the Colonial Dames or something like that.

Another woman I know is terribly proud of an old pirate. The family history makes him out to be a very disreputable old party—he didn't stop at murder or thievery, and I doubt very much whether he was always carefully shaved, but the modern American member of his family keeps an old print of the reprobate in the place of honor on the center table in her library and never allows an opportunity to pass when she can mention him.

And there is yet another woman who told me confidentially: "You know, we have nothing but old ministers and lawyers in our family; one gets sick of so much intellectual respectability, so I am devotedly attached to one villain who treated his wife badly and then disappeared, never to return—we haven't even the date of his death. If you haven't a lot of respectable ancestors, you don't know what a relief it is to have a real villain in the family."

After all a pedigree is a funny thing. I know of pedigrees that really have no excuse for being—they are merely records of people who have been born and died, and there isn't even a pirate or a gentleman hanged for high treason to give interest to the ancestry.

Alys recently decided that she wanted a pedigree, and she began a search of histories and records.

"The greatest trouble that I have," she explained wearily, after going through about a hundred records and reference books, "is that when I find any one of my name I usually discover that he isn't any relation to me at all, or else I trace the ancestry down to a certain point and then I find that some records of births or deaths have been burned up or mislaid, and I can't be sure of anything. Now I found a lovely general or captain or something in the Colonial wars, and traced him down to New-ark—or at least his sons and grandsons; but then the British army burned the records there and I can't tell

whether he was my forefather or not. I feel sure that he was but how in the world am I going to prove it?" It does seem hard on poor Alys.

There is a certain dame who tries to be fashionable. She has plenty of money—earned by honest toil of her grandfather and father, who were "in the shoe business," as it is explained. Rumor says that the elder of these estimable gentleman was originally a cobbler. One day this fine lady decided that she wanted a coat of arms or crest, to put upon her carriage panel. She decides to find out whether her father could help her with any suggestions as to the family's right to use these honors.

The old gentleman reflected a bit. "Well, Sue," he said, "I don't know, but I think the most appropriate things you could use would be a shoemaker's last rampant, with an awl couchant."

The lady uses her initials.

EDITOR BLAKE ON "SOUSE."

The West Virginia News, of Roncove, in speaking of the Marlinton Messenger's recipe for making kraut, gets off the following:

"The editor of the Marlinton Messenger recently gave us a disquisition on the art of making kraut. Bob is an alright Dutchman and no doubt knows the formula for the making of this product; but then, kraut is merely for sickness and to nibble at; it does not stand in in the same class with souse. Souse is something to build upon. It has been a staple article of winter food in America ever since Peter Stuyvesant was governor of New York, and no less a hero than this selfsame Peter declared, if we remember rightly, that war should never be fought except after hog-killing time, when souse could stand as the proper military ration. We submit the formula:

"Take the hog's feet, head and ears; clean the meat off carefully, after which put the meat into a pot to boil; cook slowly until all is reduced to a pulpy mass, then pour into an earthen jar to cool. When cut in slices and served with vinegar, salt and pepper, you have something that is as much superior to kraut as honey is to black-strap molasses. A man can eat kraut until the cabbage sticks out of his ears and he is the same rabbit hunter he was before, but with a couple of pounds of souse under his belt he becomes a bear killer, a mighty nimrod. Boosevelt never fooled with kraut except as a dainty; he stuck to souse, and became a trust buster, a world upender and a wind-jammer of the first-class. Take to souse, Bob, and be a real editor."

COMMENCEMENT DATES

FOR THE VARIOUS STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The commencement dates for the state educational institutions were officially announced last week by State Superintendent M. P. Shawkey.

West Virginia Colored Institute, June 8.

Bluefield Colored Institute, June 9.

Concord Normal School, June 10.

West Liberty Normal School, June 10.

Glenville Normal School, June 10.

Shepherd College Normal School, June 10.

Fairmont Normal School, June 13.

Keyser Preparatory School, June 13.

West Virginia University, June 14 and 15.

Marshall College Normal School, June 16.

Montgomery Preparatory School, June 16.

The annual meeting of the Board of Regents will be held in Charleston June 16, 17 and 18, and the meeting of the State Educational Association will follow about June 20.

Perhaps a man thinks he is standing up for his rights when he keeps his seat in a crowded car.

HIS OLD FIDDLE

TELLS HIS GLEE. UPSHUR COUNTY CONVICT PARDONED.

Moundsville, W. Va., Dec. 24.—All day long the fiddle of Solomon Efaw, the aged prisoner who was granted the annual Christmas pardon by Governor Glasscock Wednesday told of the joy that had been brought to the convict's heart. All his fellow prisoners watched the aged musician rendering his thoughts through his inseparable companion of the past fifteen years, a fiddle, and it brought tears to the eyes of the sympathetic listeners.

Early yesterday morning when Warden Matthews announced to Efaw that his pardon had been favorably received and acted upon by the governor, his first thought was to pick up his friend, the fiddle, and play "The Sailors' Hornpipe." Although quite touching in effect, the scene was quite humorous in contrast to the usual method of "shedding tears of joy." The news did not stagger Efaw at all, who stated that he had "kind o' expected it."

"I reckon Upshur county won't know me when I get back, but I'll know her all right," declared the pardoned convict. "I know most every road in the old county. I read the newspapers every day. I know most everything that has been done there since I came here."

When Efaw walked from the prison Christmas, a free man, he was presented with a purse of \$25 given by the guards as a Christmas present. On account of his remarkably strong personality and habit and contracting the friendship of every man he met, Efaw was perhaps the best known and most popular man confined within the walls. No one of the twelve hundred convicts at the pen are covetous of his pardon. He ate his last meal at the pen Christmas day.

HOME NEEDED.

At the last session of the state legislature, a sum of money was appropriated to be used in building a home for the children picked up by the Humane Society of this state. A delegation of the board of directors of the Humane Society last summer visited and selected a site at Elkins and sent their papers to the governor. As yet the governor has taken no action toward approving their erection and conditions are growing so that the home is needed more and more each day.

GIRLS TELL OF THE JAIL TREATMENT.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 24.—That they were forced to submit to the jailers and male prisoners and that outsiders were permitted to visit them in their cells, was stated by Julia and Hattie Thompson, aged 15 and 17, who were brought from the Salvation Army Rescue Home at Pittsburgh, today to testify before the commission investigating the conditions in the Kanawha county jail. They also stated that drinking and gambling went on in the jail. The girls spent 109 days in jail awaiting trial on a charge of theft and were recently released and turned over to the Salvation Army.

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S BIRTHDAY.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—Admiral Geo. Dewey celebrated his 72nd anniversary today. Except for a flood of telegrams and personal messages of congratulations, nothing disturbed the serenity of the Dewey household. The admiral has not been in especially good health for some time and, therefore, all observances were waived.

The appointment of Capt. W. R. Haptonstall as postmaster at Middleport has been confirmed by the U. S. Senate.

MUST A SUBSCRIBER PAY FOR HIS PAPER IS THE QUESTION.

An exchange prints the following summary of court decisions bearing upon the obligation of a subscriber to pay for his paper. Even when the defrauded publisher doesn't resort to the law, it is good for the man who will not pay to know where he stands in the opinion of the courts:

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered as wishing to renew their subscriptions.

2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their periodical the publisher may continue to send same until all arrearages are paid.

3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their periodicals from the post office to which they are directed, they are responsible until they have settled their bills and ordered them discontinued.

4. If subscribers move to other places without informing the publisher, and the papers are sent to the former address, they are held responsible.

5. The courts have decided that refusing to take periodicals from the office or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

6. If subscribers pay in advance they are bound to give notice at the end of the time if they do not wish to continue taking it; otherwise the publisher is authorized to send it, and the subscriber will be responsible until the express notice, with payment of all arrearages, is sent to the publishers.

The latest postal laws are such that newspaper publishers can arrest anyone for fraud who takes a paper and refuses to pay for it. Under the law the man who allows his subscription to run along for some time unpaid and orders it discontinued, or orders the postmaster to mark it "refused" and have a postal card sent notifying the publisher, leaves himself liable to arrest and fine, the same as for theft.

SHELTON SOLD TO BUFFALO.

Kemper Shelton, of Huntington, who was secured late last season by the Pittsburgh club, has been sold to the Buffalo club of the Eastern League. Shelton was formerly a member of the University of West Virginia team and also of the Mountain State team of Huntington. He was drafted from the Mountain State team near the end of the last season by Pittsburgh, and remained with the Pirate champions until the close of the season. However, he was not given a very thorough try-out, as he only played in one game and that an exhibition contest with Wheeling, where he was played in the outfield, instead of his regular position in the infield. Owing to the heavy membership of the Pirate team already, it is supposed that the management considered it necessary to let go some of the youngsters and the fact that Shelton has been released does not, in any way, reflect on his playing qualities.

Last week a gentleman called at our office and desired to see a paper published at a certain town. He wished to make collections and was after some attorney's address. He found just one lawyer's name in the paper and gave him the business. Now there are five attorneys in the place, and out of that number four were foolish and one was wise, he kept his name before the public.

FATALLY SHOT AT CELEBRATION.

Huntington, W. Va., Dec. 26.—News reached here today of the fatal shooting yesterday of Samuel and Freeland Dingess and Frederick Henson, at a Christmas celebration at the home of Samuel Dingess, at Peck's Mills, Logan county. Fifty or more shots are said to have been fired during the melee.

MISS CLEMENS,

MARK TWAIN'S INVALID DAUGHTER, PASSES AWAY SUDDENLY.

Bridgeport, Conn. December 24.—Mark Twain's invalid daughter, Jean, met death tragically this morning while in the bath, bringing poignant grief at Christmas time to Stormfield, the country home of the great American humorist. She was his youngest daughter, endeared to him not only by long companionship, but by her frail health, caused by recurrent attacks of epilepsy. Her death leaves Mr. Twain without kin in this country to share his sorrow, for his surviving daughter, Clara, recently married to Gabritowitch, the Russian pianist, is now on her way to Europe.

Jean Clemens died not directly from drowning as was at first supposed, but more probably from strangulation due to an attack of epilepsy or from heart failure. The body was found in the bath tub with the head only partly submerged, and medical examination showed that the lungs contained very little water.

Yesterday Miss Clemens rode her favorite horse to the postoffice to get the early Christmas mail and last night she cheerfully prepared a Christmas tree from which she had planned to distribute gifts tomorrow morning.

Jean Clemens was about 30 years old, was her father's close companion in his literary work. Since early womanhood she had been subject to epilepsy, but in recent years her health had improved, particularly last fall.

SHE TOLD HIM ALL.

A good story is going the rounds about a drummer and a pretty waitress. Here is what happened, according to the report:

The dapper little traveling man glanced at the menu and then looked at the pretty waitress. "Nice day, little one," he began.

"Yes, it is," she answered, "and so was yesterday, and my name is Ella, and I know I'm a little peach, and have pretty blue eyes, and I've been here quite a while and like the place, and don't think I'm too nice a girl to be working in a hotel; if I did I'd quit my job; and my wages are satisfactory; and I don't know if there is a show or dance in town tonight, and if there is I shall not go with you, and I'm from the country, and I'm a respectable girl, and my brother is cook in this hotel, and he weighs 200 pounds, and last week he wiped up this dining-room floor with a fresh \$50-a-month traveling man who tried to make a date with me. Now, what'll you have?"

The dapper little traveling man said he was not very hungry, and a cup of coffee and some hot cakes would do.

INJURY NOT SERIOUS.

Dr. L. F. Roush, who fell on the icy sidewalk at his home Friday and severely sprained his left arm, will leave for his trip through the south and Cuba about the first of January. It was reported that the Doctor's arm had been broken, but the injury was not all serious.—Pomeroy Independent, Dec. 24.

The Doctor is an old and appreciated friend of the Register and we regret to hear of any accident befalling him, however slight.

LIVED TO BE NINETY-THREE.

Mrs. Margaret Hacker, who died on the 14th inst., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Starcher, on the head of Parchment, was probably the oldest person in the county, having attained the age of ninety-three. She was the widow of John M. Hacker, a resident for many years of Grass Lick.—Ripley Herald.

This is the glad season when the pie baker proceeds to mince matters.

TERRIBLE BLIZZARD

GREATEST DECEMBER STORM NEW YORK HAS EVER KNOWN.

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—Philadelphia today is still in the grip of the blizzard which descended upon this section of the country on Christmas day. General business is tied up worse than for many years and prospects are that it will be several days before conditions become normal. Railroad traffic and street car service are in bad shape. Five persons have lost their lives during the storm.

Washington, Dec. 27.—On account of uncertain traffic condition due to the storm, President Taft has cancelled his engagement to dine tonight in New York City with Andrew Carnegie and to speak before the American Historical Association in Carnegie Hall.

New York, Dec. 27.—Hard work all night by thousands of men on the city's streets broke the tie-up caused by the greatest December storm this vicinity has known. While incoming trains are still delayed on some roads and surface traffic is by no means normal, the acute phase of congestion caused by the ten inch fall of snow is a thing of the past this morning.

TIDAL WAVE DROVE PEOPLE FROM HOMES.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 27.—Five million dollar loss is the estimate made today of the havoc wrought in and around Boston by the blizzard which swept New England and drove a record tide over the coast. No fatalities are reported besides the four known to have occurred yesterday in Chelsea where the tidal wave, bursting through the dyke flooded eighty acres of homes and forced twenty-five hundred persons to flee.

Thirty-two cities and towns which last night were in darkness owing to the cutting off of electric light service hoped to have their lighting facilities restored to-night. All along the coast phenomenal tides are reported. In many places set walls were battered to pieces, boulevards razed and curbs and houses along the shore destroyed.

Masses of wreckage, apparently from the schooner David Palmer of Boston, were found on the beach at Hull to-day. It is believed that the vessel struck on a ledge in the harbor and went to pieces with the loss of its crew of twelve.

NEW RECORD.

Judge Bryan, of Huntington police court, broke the state record there Monday. When he entered the city hall sixty-two prisoners confronted him for trial. His session lasted six hours and the fines assessed exceeded one thousand dollars.

DUG UP THE CUTTERS.

The first sleighing snow of the season or for several seasons arrived Sunday, and Monday and Tuesday the jingling sleighbells made pleasant music. Old cutters that long had not seen light of day were dug up by the owners and put into commission, and there were numerous other contrivances hastily arrayed for the occasion.

Burdette Bros., who sold their farm to Senator Owen Shimm, of Jackson county, George L. Burdette retains the house in which he now lives and 58 acres of orchard land surrounding the home. J. F. Burdette keeps a portion of nice bottom land, 130 acres, near river road, on a part of which he will begin the erection of a new residence as soon as possible, as Mr. Shimm takes possession of the purchase the first of May.

There are 172 telegraph and 85 telephone offices in Korea.